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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Poland [redacted] East Germany

DATE DISTR. 11 December 1952
50X1-HUMSUBJECT 1. Gas Works in Poznan, Bydgoszcz and Wroclaw
2. Bottlenecks in Industry

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. [redacted] Poznan, Bydgoszcz, and Wroclaw (Breslau)

2. [redacted] the gas works in all three cities were in a very bad state because of the fact that all the experts in the construction and maintenance of coking ovens had been arrested, dismissed or demoted on the grounds of their political unreliability. The maintenance and planning of such plants were in the hands of reliable Communist officials, who, it was obvious, had had no previous experience in such work, and were little more than relatively competent architects. As a result of this they were forced to call [redacted] for technical assistance in the maintenance and repairs necessary to such coking ovens.

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3. [redacted]

4. [redacted] the main bottlenecks in Polish industry

were:

- a. A shortage of all types of raw materials.
- b. An acute shortage of specially constructed pipes indispensable to the hydrogenation industries.
- c. An acute shortage of copper¹ and zinc affecting, in particular, the iron and steel industries and consequently the production of munitions.

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5. Practically the only supplies of copper and zinc entering Poland at that time came from the USSR, but the quantities supplied were by no means adequate to fulfill current needs.
6. The Polish iron and steel industry was also suffering from a shortage of special coke for smelting purposes. An attempt to solve this bottleneck is at present being made in East Germany where the East German branch of the former DOG (Deutsche Ofenbaugesellschaft), Dittrichring 18, Leipzig C 1, under the direction of Rudi Neef, has been instructed by the East German government to start building a large plant for the production of smelting coke in Lauchhammer (Nieder-Lausitz), Bahnhofstrasse. This plant, of which the first 160 ovens will come into production at the end of January 1953, should be able to solve to a large extent the current shortage of smelting coke both in East Germany and in Poland.
7. In addition, it is planned to rebuild and expand the gas works at Wroclaw, and for this purpose technical assistance [redacted] was deemed necessary inasmuch as there were no technicians either in Poland or East Germany capable of undertaking this task.

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